

Appl. No. 09/706,937
Amdt. dated March 19, 2008
Reply to office action of November 27, 2007

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REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on November 27, 2008. The Office Action objected to Claims 1, 2 and 14 for insufficient antecedent basis. The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 5, 6 14 and 15 as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,168,452 ("Yamada") and Claims 2, 3 and 8 as obvious in view of the combination of Yamada and U.S. Pat. No. 6,308,177 ("Israni"); Claims 4, 11 as obvious in view of the combination of Yamada and U.S. Pat. No. 6,684,219 ("Shaw"), Claims 9, 10 as obvious in view of the combination of Yamada and U.S. Pat. No. 5,974,419 ("Ashby"); and Claim 12 and 13 as obvious in view of the combination of Yamada and U.S. Pat. No. 5,930,474 ("Dunworth").

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 2 and 14. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks. Applicants submit that all of the pending claims in the present application are allowable, as explained below.

Specification and Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to the specification and claims 1, 2, 14 for the subject matter of "computer readable medium." Applications respectfully point out that the specification recites that the index is stored on "magnetic media or CD-ROM" that are well known computer readable medium. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request these objections be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 1

Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to more clearly recite one aspect of the present invention. Support for the amendment may be found at page 1, lines 20-28. Claim 1 recites an indexing structure with the first dimension including latitude boundary information and the second dimension including longitude boundary information that define a bounded area represented by a maximum latitude, a maximum longitude, a minimum latitude and a minimum longitude. Applicants' independent Claim 1 was rejected as being anticipated by Yamada; however, Claim 1 is not anticipated by Yamada because Yamada fails to disclose or suggest this claim element.

The Office Action contends that Figure 6(b) and columns 5&6 of Yamada discloses an index file that includes three dimensions of east longitude, north latitude, exiting road number,

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intersection numbers. (see: Office Action, page 3). Applicants respectfully point out that the index of Figure 6(b) includes the number of blocks and block numbers (see: Yamada, column 6, lines 7-9), not the recited three dimensions with latitude, longitude and rank information. The sections of column 5 cited in the Office Action refer to road data records and intersection data records shown in Figures 2(a&b) of Yamada. Although the intersection data records of Figure 2(b) discloses east longitude and north latitude, Yamada does not disclose that the latitude boundary information and the longitude boundary information that define a bounded area represented by a maximum latitude, a maximum longitude, a minimum latitude and a minimum longitude. The single latitude and longitude values of Yamada cannot provide the recited bounded area.

For at least these reasons, the Yamada fails to disclose or suggest every claim element. Applicants respectfully request the rejection of independent Claim 1 be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 2

Applicants' independent Claim 2 was rejected as being obvious over Yamada in view of Israni. Claim 2 recites "a single index structure that includes two spatial dimensions and a non-spatial third dimension, wherein said two spatial dimensions define a bounded area represented by a maximum latitude, a maximum longitude, a minimum latitude and a minimum longitude." The Office Action contends that Figure 6(b) and columns 5&6 of Yamada discloses an index file that includes three dimensions of east longitude, north latitude, exiting road number, intersection numbers. (see: Office Action, page 3). As discussed above, Yamada fails to disclose these claim elements. Furthermore, Israni fails to disclose a single index structure that includes two spatial dimensions and a non-spatial third dimension. Thus, Claim 2 is not obvious in view of the combination of Yamada and Israni.

Independent Claim 14

Applicants' independent Claim 14 recites an indexing structure with a first dimension that includes latitude boundary information and a second dimension includes longitude boundary information. The latitude boundary information and longitude boundary information define a bounded area represented by a maximum latitude, a maximum longitude, a minimum latitude and a minimum longitude. As discussed above in conjunction with Claim 1, Yamada fails to

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disclose or suggest this claim element. Because Yamada fails to disclose or suggest every claim element, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 3-6, 8-13 and 15

Applicants' Claims 3-6, 8-13 and 15 are dependent claims that distinguish the cited references at least for the same reasons explained above in connection with their independent base claims. In addition, these claims recite further features and limitations that are neither disclosed nor suggested by these references.

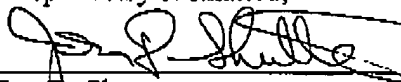
Petition for extension of time

Included with this response is a request for an extension of time to reply to the Office Action dated November 27, 2007. Included with this response is an authorization for payment of the fee associated with this request.

Conclusion

All the issues in the office action, dated November 27, 2007 have been addressed. Favorable consideration of the present application is requested. If any issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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